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AUTHOR Jones, Chris
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ABSTRACT

This final report focuses on activities and accomplishments of a 3-year federally supported project in North Carolina to identify and serve students with deaf-blindness. Major accomplishments included: an increase in identified deaf blind individuals in the state from 341 at the beginning of the project to 396 at the end; implementation of a Model Inclusion Program by the Rockingham Consolidated School System; development of a statewide parent organization; implementation of regional interagency deaf-blind resource teams; and provision of training to a total of 4,148 professionals, paraprofessionals, and family members over the 3-year period. An attached management plan lists each project objective, relevant activities, original projected timeline, and specific accomplishments. (DB)

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SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DEAF-BLINDNESS
CFDA: 84.025A - STATE AND MULTI-STATE PROJECTS

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
PROGRAM YEAR 1994-1995

PROJECT AWARD NUMBER:	**H025A20021-94**
PROJECT NUMBER:	**02**
PROJECT TITLE:	**Single State Services for Deaf-Blind Children and Youth**
PROJECT COORDINATOR:	**Chris Jones**
MAILING ADDRESS:	**N.C. Department of Public Instruction Exceptional Children Division 301 North Wilmington St. Raleigh, NC 27601-2825**
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	**919/715-1998**
PROJECT START DATE:	**October 1, 1994**
PROJECT END DATE:	**September 30, 1995**
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED:	**North Carolina**
DIRECT SERVICE OFFERED BY:	**North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**
AGES OF CHILDREN:	**0-21**
NUMBER OF CHILDREN:	**396**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:	
NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS:	**334**
NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS:	**1,155**
NUMBER OF PARAPROFESSIONALS:	**47**
TOTAL NUMBER SERVED:	**1,536**

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The major goals and objectives of the project remained the same as indicated in the original grant application which was submitted on May 22, 1992. We have just completed the final year of the three year grant. We have made tremendous pros point. Our identification efforts have yielded additional persons with deaf-blindness who are in need of services. Our identified population has increased from 341 at the beginning of this project to our current level of 396. All of these individuals have been certified as being deaf-blind in accordance with our state regulations and the federal definition of deaf-blindness as set forth in the ***Federal Register, Volume 40, No. 35, February 20, 1975, Section 121c.37(a).***

The information contained in this *Final Report* will provide an accurate account of the original objective, activity and progress made until the end of the current project period which terminated on September 30, 1995.

Our major accomplishments are the following:

1. We have been successful in our identification and early identification efforts. As stated, our population has increased to the current level from the original 396 from the initial 341 identified at the beginning of the project. These efforts allows us to continue to offer support to families and coordinate early intervention activities. The intent of the early intervention and identification has been to identify persons with deaf-blindness. There has been a national problem in identifying this population because these individuals have been counted under "multihandicapped" or "severely profoundly handicapped." Our certified headcount enables us to provide the unique specialized services which are authorized under this 307.11 project.

2. We have initiated and implemented a *Model Inclusion Program* which is being operated by the Rockingham Consolidated School System. We have subcontracted with this school system and provided minimal initial funding to operate as a training site for inclusion programs. Several children with deaf-blindness are served by this system and are included as part of this total school system project. This training site provides information and instruction on a statewide basis to all persons working with individuals who are deaf-blind and/or with severe disabilities as well as other exceptional children on how to implement a successful inclusion program in their respective LEA. In accordance with federal mandates, this 307.11 project provides assistance in ensuring that students are placed in the least restrictive environment.

3. Another area of accomplishment has been with our statewide parent organization. This project works very closely and cooperatively with the families of individuals with deaf-blindness in the state. The project is highly sensitive to their needs and concerns. Activities and in-home consultations have been arranged and conducted to address these needs. Statewide workshops, local training and individual personalized services are provided to each family as identified by the parent organization and in cooperation with the 307.11 project. Our parent organization has been nationally recognized and has had a direct impact on their members and the lives of children with deaf-blindness.

4. We are also very proud of the initiation and implementation of our *Regional Interagency Deaf-Blind Resource Teams.* This concept was made possible by the cooperation and dedication of professionals and consumers joining together to address a critical need. Parents, consumers and professionals from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Services for the Blind, Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities have organized four regional teams to address a wide range of needs of persons with deaf-blindness. These efforts have been made possible through a grant from the Council on Developmental Disabilities. The purpose of these teams is to:

   - *Develop an awareness of needs of persons with deaf-blindness;*
   - *Plan and advocate for meeting the needs of this population;*
   - *Share resources and information about deaf-blindness across the state;*
   - *Develop working relationships with other agencies; and*
   - *Provide technical assistance to individuals, agencies and service providers.*

   These teams have been very successful in making a positive impact on individual families and persons with deaf-blindness. A "case study" approach has been used to address individual concerns of families.

5. Our State Advisory Committee was also very active in advocating for persons with deaf-blindness. The full committee meets a minimum of four times per year. Many agencies, families, consumers and professionals are represented by this committee. The committee has taken an active role in identifying and meeting the needs of this population. This committee will continue to have a direct impact on families and persons with deaf-blindness.

6. During the administration of this grant we have provided extensive training to teachers, administrators, related service personnel, and families who work and support persons who are deaf-blind in our state. As a result of this application and the subsequent funding, we were able to provide formal specialized training opportunities for the following individuals as reported by our annual census data:

Recipients	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Totals
Professionals	**970**	**1,080**	**1,155**	**3,205**
Paraprofessionals	**185**	**56**	**47**	**288**
Family Members	**143**	**178**	**334**	**655**
Total Served	**1,298**	**1,314**	**1,536**	**4,148**

It should also be noted that numerous on-site training sessions and consultations with teachers, paraprofessionals, related service personnel and families were provided and are not reflected in the aforementioned table.

The documentation provided in our revised October 4, 1995 census data indicates that we continue to identify persons who are deaf-blind who are eligible to receive services under the criteria set forth in CFDA: 84.025A and in accordance with the federal definition. We anticipate this trend to continue for the next several years as the number of children and youth who are deaf-blind increases. Our application and accomplishments reflect the need to serve the current population and projects the need for additional services for future recipients.

North Carolina has made a sincere effort to continue to offer and provide quality educational services to persons who are deaf-blind in our state. Future public awareness campaigns and interagency collaboration will ensure that we will provide early intervention and education for this population.

It should also be noted that numerous on-site training sessions and consultations with teachers, paraprofessionals, related service personnel and families were provided and are not reflected in the aforementioned table.

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The following section of this document entitled, ***"Management Plan" will*** provide detailed information about each objective as proposed by the original grant application which was submitted on May 22, 1992. The "Activities" which were to be implemented and ***"Projected Timeline"*** is also included in this section. The most important component of the ***"Management Plan"*** is the information contained under the ***"Accomplishments."*** This will detail the progress made for each specific activity.

The execution of this grant had been conducted with minimal difficulties. The only difficulty of any consequence was the delay in gaining approval for an amendment and request to reallocate unexpended funds which were carried over into the next program year. This delay caused difficulties in ultimately utilizing these funds which resulted in unexpended funds remaining at the conclusion of this grant period. These unexpended funds will be reflected in our final budget report.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Main Objective:
Provide special education, early intervention, related, vocational, and transitional services to deaf-blind children and youth to whom states are not obligated to make available a free appropriate public education under IDEA. Services will include a). diagnosis and educational evaluation of children and youth at risk of being identified as deaf-blind; b). programs of adjustment, education, and orientation; and c). consultative, counseling, and training services for families of those being served in this program. Authorizing Statute 307.11 (all sections)

NOTE: Percentage of time is only for the responsibility of the coordinator being funded by this application.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1.1 Provide diagnosis and educational evaluation of children and youth at risk of being identified as deaf-blind. Authorizing Statute 307.11(a)(i) (Coordinator 10% of time).	1.1.1	Diagnostic and evaluative services will be provided for all suspected deaf-blind children 0 to 22 years of age.	On request or as needed.	Evaluations provided as requested by agencies.
	1.1.2	Review differential diagnosis programs being implemented by each agency.	November, 1993	Completed
	1.1.3	Develop a system, in conjunction with each agency, which will ensure that deaf-blind children are properly identified and referred.	Ongoing	Services were coordinated with Local Education Agencies and Private Service Providers
	1.1.4	Current and future diagnostic services will be assessed.	Ongoing	Requests received from program personnel. Assessment completed.
	1.1.5	A diagnostic and evaluation team will be organized to provide functional assessments on the deaf-blind clients.	Ongoing	Composition of team under advisement. Some team members have been identified and contracted to provide services.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	1.1.6	A statewide computerized system for tracking the identified deaf-blind children will be developed and implemented.	October - December 1994	All deaf-blind children entered on computerized registry. (Listing updated regularly).
	1.1.7	Technical assistance will be provided to agencies currently involved in the diagnosis and assessment of deaf-blind children and youth.	Ongoing	Fifteen statewide workshops provided as well as local technical assistance to programs.
	1.1.8	Prescriptive diagnostic programs will be developed, in conjunction with each agency, in providing quality educational services for their respective deaf-blind children and youth.	Ongoing	IEP's reviews were conducted during monitoring and inservice visits.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	1.1.9	Periodic progress evaluations and staffings will be conducted to assure that each client is receiving appropriate educational and diagnostic services.	January, 1994	Each agency conducts IEP reviews on a regular basis. The 307.11 coordinator provided consultation when requested.
	1.1.10	Provide indepth follow-up to determine deaf-blind eligibility and to make interagency referrals to locate appropriate services.	Ongoing	Follow-up visits to agencies were conducted. Referrals were made to other agencies, when appropriate.
	1.1.11	Exceptional Children Support Team staff members will participate as a member of an interdisciplinary evaluation team, when requested.	As requested.	Participation requested and provided for manual revision.
	1.1.12	State Office personnel will provide at least annual contact with all deaf-blind children and youth placed on the state registry.	Ongoing	All agencies contacted for Annual Registry update. Completed each year. Latest revision completed in May 1995.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1.2 Provide programs of adjustment, education and orientation. Authorizing Statue 307.11(a)(ii) (Coordinator 10% of time)	1.2.1	Develop a computer facilitated directory of teaching and service agencies for the deaf-blind in the state.	January, 1994	Completed and revised periodically.
	1.2.2	Provide a comprehensive computerized listing of key personnel and specialized instructors available to provide technical assistance to the service agencies.	June, 1993	In process. Information being reviewed and assessed.
	1.2.3	Assist each program in the development and implementation of specific curriculum required to provide each deaf-blind client with a quality educational program.	Ongoing	Programs visited and service provided.
	1.2.4	Demonstrate specific techniques in communication, physical development, vocational training and classroom instruction.	Ongoing	On-site technical assistance provided to programs.
	1.2.5	Establish and maintain rapport and coordination among all service providers and other state agencies in an effort to provide a continuum of educational and transitional services.	Ongoing	All agencies worked cooperatively in providing services.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	1.2.6	Identify existing and potential interagency mechanisms for community-based education and training.	December, 1993	Coordinated with DSB, DHR and related agencies and organizations.
1.3 Provide consultative, counseling and training services for families of those being served by this project. Authorizing Statute 307.11(a)(iii) (Coordinator 10% of time)	1.3.1	Conduct a needs assessment to determine the priority areas of need and concern in providing educational programs to the deaf-blind population.	November, 1992	Assessment has been completed. Activities planned accordingly.
	1.3.2	Establish and maintain an open communication system between all parties involved in serving the deaf-blind client and family.	Ongoing	Agency and parent contact conducted.
	1.3.3	Following compilation and evaluation of the needs assessment, develop prescribed areas of concentration and appropriate inservice training.	December, 1993	Specific need areas identified. Training conducted to address needs.
	1.3.4	Provide the required aid to professionals and families of deaf-blind children and youth.	Ongoing	Consultation provided to families and related professionals.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2.1 Establish and maintain a state resource lending library for those individuals currently working with deaf-blind children and youth. Authorizing Statute 307.11(2) (Coordinator 5% of time)	2.1.1	Research articles, books, video tapes, films, and related materials which pertain to the education of deaf-blind children and youth.	Ongoing	Materials reviewed and added to resource library.
	2.1.2	Maintain and update materials as the project progresses.	Ongoing	New materials added.
	2.1.3	Make these materials available on a loan basis to the groups previously mentioned.	Ongoing	Items sent out to teachers, related personnel and parents on loan.
	2.1.4	Assess the need for additional specialized materials from the agencies, parents and related groups and make these additions to the library.	April, 1994	New items have been assessed and were ordered.
	2.1.5	Publish a complete listing of all materials available and distribute to all programs and individuals upon request.	June, 1994	In progress. Not yet completed.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2.2	Contractual agreements will be initiated and implemented with individuals providing specialized training. Authorizing Statute 307.1 '2'(ii) (Coord ator 5% of time)	2.2.1 Key personnel knowledgeable in the field of deaf-blind education will be researched and evaluated.	February, 1994	Personnel listing being compiled. Not yet completed.
		2.2.2 The specified listing will be developed utilizing the input from service providers, parents, state and federal government agencies.	March, 1994	Information gathered.
		2.2.3 Administrative assistance will be provided by the state office to the service providers in arranging inservice training programs utilizing qualified instructors.	November, 1993 Ongoing	Technical assistance provided by 307.11 project.
		2.2.4 The logistics and local arrangements will be completed through combined efforts of the state office and the service provider.	December, 1993	Completed.
		2.2.5 Specialized training will be provided to parents in the home setting.	Ongoing	In home training provided to seventeen families.
		2.2.6 Pertinent materials related to the education of the deaf-blind individual will be disseminated to parents, educators and other professionals working with the deaf-blind population.	Ongoing	Materials disseminated on a regular basis.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	2.2.7	Parent trainers will be dispatched to homes when the situation warrants this type of educational alternative.	November, 1993 Ongoing	Completed.
2.3 Inservice training programs and workshops will be provided to families and service providers by the state agency. Authorizing Statute 307.11(2) (Coordinator 25% of time)	2.3.1	The state office will assess the priority need areas of the service providers and families of deaf-blind children and youth.	December, 1993	Completed.
	2.3.2	Upon the determination of the priority need area, preliminary planning will be conducted, in conjunction with the service providers, to provide the needed inservice training.	December, 1993	Completed.
	2.3.3	Several statewide and/or local workshops will be conducted and sponsored by the state office.	November, 1993 Ongoing	Fifteen statewide workshops have been completed.
	2.3.4	In addition to the state office sponsored workshops, the individual programs may sponsor and conduct inservice training workshops at their respective sites.	November, 1993 Ongoing	Training workshops conducted by forty-nine service providers.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	2.3.5	Parental involvement will be highly stressed in all training efforts and workshops. Specialized parent training will be offered to parents.	Ongoing	Nine statewide parent workshops completed.
	2.3.6	Special arrangements may be made by the local service providers which will enable the parent to attend the inservice training programs being offered.	November, 1993 Ongoing	Activities conducted by individual programs.
2.4 Specialized research and instruction will be provided to service providers who are interested in developing model simulated group home/ community based programs. Authorizing Statute 307.11(2)(iii) (Coordinator 10% of time)	2.4.1	The need for group home/ community based programs will be researched on a statewide basis.	December, 1993	Research Completed.
	2.4.2	A special task force will be selected and commissioned to assist in the development of the aforementioned programs.	December, 1993	Task Force implemented.
	2.4.3	Upon completion of the research and on the recommendation of the task force, a pilot site will be selected to establish a model program	July, 1994	Inclusion model implemented in Rockingham Consolidated School System.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	2.4.4	Several pilot programs may be initiated in various geographic locations throughout the state if the need is identified.	September, 1994	One pilot program established in Rockingham County Consolidated Schools.
	2.4.5	Specialized training will be provided to staff members selected to participate in this model program.	February - July, 1994	Completed.
	2.4.6	The state office will prepare the necessary agreements and make the financial and logistical arrangements to secure qualified instructors in the specified areas of development.	November, 1993 Ongoing	Completed August 1994.
	2.4.7	Parent and community involvement will be solicited and strongly recommended.	Ongoing	Completed.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	2.4.8	An evaluative process will be established and maintained by the task force to document the failures and successes of such a model program.	September, 1993	Completed.
	2.4.9	The transition from the present institutional setting into a less restrictive environment will be researched.	March, 1994	Completed.
	2.4.10	Goals and objectives for such a transition will be developed and implemented as a vital part of the total program.	June, 1994	Completed
	2.4.11	Cooperation among the agencies involved such as education, vocational rehabilitation, services for the blind and other related agencies will be highly stressed.	Ongoing	Cooperation between DPI, DSB, DHR and other related entities established.
	2.4.12	A progress report will be issued by the host agency and disseminated to all individuals or agencies involved in the development and implementation of these model programs.	September, 1994	Completed.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
3.1 Enter into contractual agreement with sponsoring agencies: (a) Provide comprehensive and continuing diagnostic and evaluative services stressing early identification (b) Design and/or continue programs for the adjustment, orientation and education of deaf-blind children and youth which integrates all the professional and allied resources necessary; and	3.1.1	The state office will assume the responsibility for developing contractual agreements between the Service Providers and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.	October, 1993	Two agencies contracted.
	3.1.2	The responsibilities of both parties entering into this agreement will be defined and the final document will be approved by the service provider and the North Carolina Board of Education.	October, 1993	Completed.
	3.1.3	Detailed line-item budgets will be submitted by each service provider receiving Section 622 funds. The number of children and youth to be served, by age, and the types of services being provided.	October, 1993	Completed.
	3.1.4	The state office will periodically monitor the expenditures for each program to ensure that Section 622 funds are being expended in accordance with the contractual agreement.	Ongoing	Completed.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
(c) Guarantee the use of Section 622 funds to serve those deaf-blind children and youth to whom the state is not obligated to provide a free appropriate education and to use the remaining funds to provide supplemental services to those deaf-blind children and youth for whom the states are required to provide free appropriate public education. Authorizing Statute 307.11(2) (Coordinator 10% of time)	3.1.5	The state office will perform evaluations of the services provided to each cooperating agency in compliance with 324 CFR 75.590.	Ongoing	Completed.
	3.1.6	Budget amendments will be negotiated and processed when the situation warrants.	On request.	None required

OBJECTIVE			ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
3.2	The state office will establish and conduct regular meetings of a state advisory committee. This activity will comply with regulations set forth in 34 CFR Section 307.41. Authorizing Statute 307.41. (Coordinator 5% of time)	3.2.1	The state office will work in cooperation with each agency to solicit names for the membership of this committee.	November, 1993	Completed.
		3.2.2	The state consultant for deaf-blind services and committee chairperson will be responsible for planning and conducting the meetings.	Ongoing	Completed.
		3.2.3	The number of meetings will be determined by the members of the committee but one meeting shall be conducted at least annually.	November, 1993	Quarterly meetings conducted.
		3.2.4	The committee will be instrumental in assisting the state in establishing state steering committees or other special interest groups in an effort to provide additional services for the deaf-blind population.	Ongoing	Completed.

	OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
3.3	The state office will maintain a system of accurate records for the purpose of: (a) Verifying the status and eligibility of each deaf-blind child or youth certified on the deaf-blind registry; (b) Program visitations and compliance with the approved Section 622 contract and federal regulations as specified by 34 CFR 307.11; (c) maintain current and accurate information on any special model, innovative or research projects. Authorizing Statute 307.11(1)(iv) (Coordinator 10% of time)	3.3.1	Prior to a potential deaf-blind individual being added to the state registry, he/she must be identified as deaf-blind in accordance with the definition given by IDEA Authority 20 USC.1401 (1)(16)(17)(18)	Ongoing	All new entrants have been evaluated.
		3.3.2	An audiological, ophthalmological or optometric, and educational evaluation must be completed to verify a child meets the specified criteria.	Ongoing	Completed by each agency.
		3.3.3	Any concerned individual may initiate this certification process.	Ongoing	Completed.
		3.3.4	Upon certification and verification of evaluation results, the child or youth will then be placed on the state registry and be eligible for services in accordance with this project 84.025A.	Ongoing	Completed.

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	3.3.5	The master list of all deaf-blind children and youth will be maintained and updated regularly by the state office.	Ongoing	Completed each year.
	3.3.6	Each program serving deaf-blind children and youth must submit, a registry update form. This procedure will allow the state office to accurately assess those individuals receiving services, the type of placement, level of service and other biographical data.	Ongoing	Completed.
	3.3.7	A copy of the Certification and Registry Update forms can be located in the appendices.	Ongoing	Refer to original application, final page (215).
	3.3.8	The state office will monitor each program and/or service provider on a regular basis.	October, 1993	Completed

OBJECTIVE		ACTIVITIES	ORIGINAL PROJECTED TIMELINE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	3.3.9	Monitoring visits will entail reviewing child plans, budget expenditures, specific professional training needs and other related areas.	October, 1994	Programs reviewed.
	3.3.10	A follow-up report will be submitted to the service provider citing strengths and weakness of the program and will be accompanied by recommendations.	Ongoing	Reports submitted.
	3.3.11	Compliance with the approved Part C, Section 622 Grant and Federal Regulations as specified by 34 CFR 307.11 will also be assessed.	Ongoing	Reviewed periodically.
	3.3.12	Records and progress reports will be maintained by the state office on any special model, innovative or research projects.	Ongoing	On file in state office.
	3.3.13	The aforementioned programs will be closely monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.	Ongoing	Completed.